

**Greater Boston Breathes Better
Working Group Meeting Notes
June 28, 2004**

Attendees:

Christine Sansevero	Steve Lanou
Lucy Edmondson	David Straus
Gevon Solomon	Ted Smith
Tony Chaves	Kim Pessoni
Sandra Bisset	Chris Busch
Catherine Wetherell	Dan Brown
Jacki Wilkins	Holly Bogle
Jim Gascoigne	Bill Moomaw
Bob Larson	Larry Dixon
Jennifer Dolin	Pat Field
Bill Van Schalkwyk	

Shuttle Event Update

Lucy Edmondson updated the working group (WG) on the shuttle event held in May.

- There was good turnout and participation. Notable participants included Partners Health, Harvard, MIT, Paul Revere Transportation, and Charles River Transportation among others.
- EPA followed up with everyone that attended the event and received good feedback on how it can better assist fleet managers to reduce emissions.
- In the next few weeks a fact sheet targeting shuttle fleet managers will be produced from the proceedings of the event.
- Very effective to have fleet operators sit together informally and discuss what they have done to reduce emissions that has worked. Info is coming from one of them, not EPA.

Construction Workshop

Christine Sansevero and Kim Pessoni updated the WG on their meeting with the Associated General Contractors of MA.

- Small, committed group of contractors interested in pursuing emission reduction strategies.
- The construction industry, as a whole, has not adopted emission control technology as much as on-road fleets have.
- Through this workshop, EPA learned that the construction world is unclear on effective strategies for reducing emissions. Many participants commented that it was helpful to contractors to hear from EPA that things are currently being done to reduce emissions at the state and federal level through bid/contract processes at the Big Dig, Connecticut (Q Bridge Reconstruction Project) New York City, and

other places. This translated into a “can-do” attitude and willingness to try other approaches.

- The group was very interested in learning that using highway diesel in non-road engines is a very simple strategy for reducing emissions from these vehicles.
- Diesel Oxidation Catalysts are also an effective way to reduce pollution from non-road engines.
- EPA is in the process of following up with participants and getting them info on how they can reduce emissions.

Discussion:

- WG is interested in developing “spec sheets” of language and ways to reduce emissions that it can use within their organizations and businesses. Could be a spec-sheet, letter to the business’s purchasing agent explain GB3 and different options for reducing emissions and explaining the spec-sheet, also include a fact sheet.
- Kim Pessoni is working with construction equipment manufacturers to address warranty issues surrounding the use of retrofit equipment.

Brief Updates

- Lucy Edmondson explained that MA DEP and NESCAUM will use a \$15,000 grant from EPA to investigate emission control strategies for marine engines in the Greater Boston area. This could dovetail with the work of GB3.
- A group similar to GB3 is developing in Rhode Island, following on the good work the GB3 WG has done. The group is called Breathe Better Rhode Island.

Revised Brochure

Jennifer Dolin introduced the new GB3 logo and brochure and took comments on them. She noted that these would be sent to WG members to review further.

- EPA will set up a website to complement the brochure and the work of the WG.

Discussion:

- WG liked the overall draft logo and brochure.
- Audience is the general public and potential actors.
- The WG noted that it is better to change “private sector” to “local businesses”, and reiterated that the focus of any program should be on incentives, not the hammer, and that ideally GB3 would not be seen as an exclusive group.
- Consider adding testimonials to the brochure.
- Who is a participant—need to outline membership criteria, etc. Could have a 3rd party such as Environmental Management Services serve as a certifier.

Options for Other Activities

The WG reviewed the document of possible GB3 activities and made the following comments.

- Social marketing campaign workshop would help WG learn more about how to develop effective SM campaign.
- The construction industry is an area with a lot of potential for additional action. GB3 should reach out to them further. Universities could be part of this, since many of them have engineering schools.
- Develop a link between GB3 and the Alt.Wheels festival/workshop in September.
- South Boston good neighbor campaign (possibly spring 2005)
 - Convention center
 - Gillette, City of Boston, Massport
 - Trucking
- Allston—construction and need for shuttles
- Workshop for Boston area Colleges and Universities (C/U) – possibly through the Campus Consortium for Environmental Excellence (C2E2) (EPA staff to coordinate through our regional C/U initiative.)
- Focus on children—Science Museum, Children’s Museum—educational outreach, and anti-idling for visiting buses.
- Medical complexes
- More on marine transportation
- Provide press exposure to new companies and organizations enrolled in the Best Workplaces for Commuters Program
- Increase funding opportunities and communication on them
- Link with some additional private companies working to reduce transportation related emissions, such as Burke Oil.